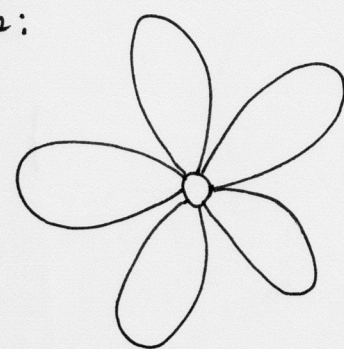


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For the first time in what seems to be a very long time, normalcy has returned to Elkdale. I woke up at 6:30 A.M. and, after lying in bed for about 20 minutes and enjoying the prospect of a very quiet day, I got up and went out and put fertilizer (Miracle-Gro) on the gourds, corn & sunflowers and beans. During my absence from Elkdale yesterday, it rained, quite hard, it appears. The ground is wet and the vegetables and flowers ^{+SKP} are very pleased that after several days of rainy weather (during which it didn't rain very much) the ground is, at last, wet. The gourds and sunflowers are growing beautifully these days and both are beginning to blossom. I have already seen about six very large and unusual flowers on the gourd vine in the Orendaff lawn — the flowers are shaped more or less as follows:



What mysterious wonders will grow from these pale white/ashy white flowers on long stems?

Several of the gourd vines are higher than my head and that, of course, gives me great pleasure. No ^{tallest} sunflowers are up to my chin; regrettably, I have lost, all totaled, about 20 beautiful sunflowers to the deer. SKP will have the last laugh on the deer, rest assured.

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^{about 1' long}
picked two pole beans & ^{about 6" long} about 7 bush beans (lima beans, I think) — ate the pod and all; the pole beans were very delicious & crunchy & nut like; the bush beans were tough and stringy, even though they are young, i.e.; the beans are still very small in the very beautiful pods. I shall allow the bush beans to fully mature and eat them dried. No pole beans I will pick and eat all summer long — there appear to be an infinite quantity of pole beans on the way. Naturally I will allow some (a good quantity) of the pole beans to ripen and dry on the vine.

Late afternoon — after 4 P.M.

I have been at the dining room table on the "stage" most all of the day — catching up with my journal. My writing has been punctuated with numerous trips around the grounds and a trip down to the Tinker Creek to bathe and wash some clothes. On a trip by the oriental poppies, I decided to pull out all the small weeds that were growing in the bed and discovered, as I did, that two poppy blossoms are on the way. In two or three days they should be out. What a pleasant surprise. I was under the impression that they didn't bloom until late August.